Specifically, the catheter of the system defined in claim 1 contains a central guidance lumen that extends along the longitudinal axis of the catheter and opens at its distal end, and an annular bypass flow lumen surrounding, and isolated from, the guidance lumen. In addition, the catheter includes inlet and outlet openings communicating with the bypass flow lumen.

In contrast, catheter 12 of Heuser is structured such that there is a single lumen, or channel, 46 that receives the guide catheter and provides for bypass flow. In other words, this reference does not disclose a catheter having a bypass flow lumen that is isolated from a central guidance lumen.

It is known that in the use of systems of the type here under consideration, if blood flows in contact with a guide wire, the guide wire can be a site at which clots are formed. Such clots can then be liberated from the guide wire and enter the bypass flow into the blood vessel. This hazard is eliminated in the present invention by the provision of a bypass flow lumen that is isolated from the guidance lumen.

A catheter having this structure is also not disclosed by Imran.

Moreover, during use of the catheter defined in claim 1 of the present application, the guide wire will be

introduced and withdrawn at various points in time. This action will vary the cross-section of the bypass lumen disclosed by Heuser. Since, however, guide lumen is isolated from the bypass flow lumen in the catheter according to the invention, introduction and retraction of the guide wire will not alter the cross-section of the bypass flow lumen, so that a more constant blood flow rate is assured.

Furthermore, one skilled in the art cannot obtain from the entirety of the disclosures of the applied references an appropriate suggestion for combining their teachings in the manner relied upon to support the rejection.

The structure disclosed in Imran differs fundamentally from that disclosed in Heuser. For example, in Heuser, catheter 12 carries a blocking balloon and a stent deployment balloon, and Heuser does not disclose a system in which catheter 12 is associated with a guide tube, or catheter. In contrast, the catheter 31 of Imran carries only a single balloon, while catheter 16 carries two balloons.

Thus, in order for tube 16 of Imran to be employed with catheter 12 of Heuser, it would be necessary to remove balloon 30 and stent 40 from catheter 12 and to reposition them on catheter 16 of Imran. The result would be a system that cannot operate in the manner disclosed by Heuser.

In more general terms, the systems disclosed in the two applied references differ so fundamentally and so extensively from one another that those skilled in the art could not, without a knowledge of the present invention, have any motivation to combine the two systems in any particular way.

In view of the foregoing, it is requested that the previous rejections be reconsidered and withdrawn, that the pending claims be allowed and that the application be found in allowable condition.

In the present case, it is desired to seek an interview with the Examiner if the present application is not found to now be in allowable condition. Accordingly, undersigned counsel will telephone the Examiner shortly to discuss the necessity for such interview.

Respectfully submitted,

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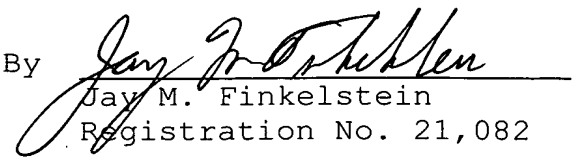
By 
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